

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND) (CONSCIENCE CLAUSE).

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RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 13 February 1893;—*for*.

COPY "of CORRESPONDENCE between the IRISH GOVERNMENT and the COMMISSIONERS of NATIONAL EDUCATION for Ireland, with Extracts from Minutes of the Proceedings of the Commissioners, in relation to certain proposed Changes in the Rules under which Grants are made by Parliament for Elementary Education in Ireland."

(*Mr. John Morley.*)

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,*  
13 February 1893.

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COPY of CORRESPONDENCE between the IRISH GOVERNMENT and the COMMISSIONERS of NATIONAL EDUCATION for *Ireland*, with Extracts from Minutes of the Proceedings of the Commissioners, in relation to certain proposed Changes in the Rules under which Grants are made by Parliament for Elementary Education in *Ireland*.

EXTRACTS from Minutes of the Proceedings of the Board of National Education, Ireland, in relation to the proposed new Rule, and Copies of Correspondence between the Right Hon. W. L. Jackson, M.P., the Right Hon. John Morley, M.P., Chief Secretary for Ireland, and the Commissioners, in reference thereto.

Office of National Education, Dublin,  
16 February 1893.

J. C. Taylor, } Secretaries.  
W. R. Molloy, }

EXTRACT from Minutes of the Proceedings of the Board at its Meeting on the  
16th August 1892.

Present :

Right Hon. Lord Morris, Chairman.  
Edmond G. Dease, Esq., D.L.  
Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart., D.L.  
Rev. Henry Evans, D.D.  
Rev. H. B. Wilson, D.D.  
Right Hon. Sir Patrick J. Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B., Resident Commissioner.

William R. Molloy, Secretary in attendance.

The Commissioners proceed to appoint a day for the consideration of a letter, dated the 11th August, from the Right Hon. W. L. Jackson, inviting the Commissioners "to consider whether in their Rules and Regulations relating to Religious Instruction, the clause on that subject contained in the Intermediate Education Act (Ireland), 1878, could be embodied."

Ordered, That Tuesday, the 25th October, be fixed for the consideration of Mr. Jackson's letter and enclosure.

Printed copies of Mr. Jackson's speech on first and second days of debate in connection with Conscience Clause to accompany notice on the agenda paper.

EXTRACT from Minutes of Proceedings of Board at its Meeting held on the  
13th September 1892.

Present :

Edmond G. Dease, Esq., D.L.  
C. T. Redington, Esq., D.L.  
William H. Newell, Esq., C.B., J.P.  
James Morell, Esq.  
Rev. John W. Stubbs, D.D., S.P.T.C.D.  
Rev. Henry Evans, D.D.  
Rev. Hamilton B. Wilson, D.D.  
Right Hon. Sir Patrick J. Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B., Resident Commissioner  
(Chairman.)

J. C. Taylor, Secretary in attendance.

Secretary reads the following notice of motion by the Right Hon. Christopher Palles, Lord Chief Baron:—

"National Education Board.  
 "On Tuesday, 25th October next, when the letter, dated 11th August last, of the late Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant is under consideration, I shall call attention of the Board to the 44th recommendation of the Powis Commission, and I shall move that, in the opinion of the Board, its rules ought to be modified by the introduction into same of the Rule following, and application be made by the Board to the present Chief Secretary to sanction the same."

"Proposed Rule.

"Where there have been in operation in any school district or within any city or town for three years two or more schools (of which one is under Protestants and one under Roman Catholic management) having an average attendance of not less than 25 children, the National Board may, upon application from the patron or manager, adopt any such school and award aid without requiring any regulation as to religion other than the following:—

"(I.) No pupil attending the school shall be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of any religious instruction which the parents or guardians of such pupil shall not have sanctioned.

"(II.) The time for giving religious instruction shall be so fixed that no pupil not remaining in attendance shall be excluded directly or indirectly from the advantages of the secular education given in the school."

1892.

MINUTES of Proceedings of the Board at its Meetings on the 25th and 26th October 1892.

Present :

Right Hon. Lord Morris, Chairman.  
 Right Hon. W. H. P. Cogan, D.L.  
 Edmund G. Dence, Esq., D.L.  
 Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
 C. T. Redington, Esq., D.L.  
 William H. Newell, Esq., C.B., J.P.  
 J. Malcolm Ingila, Esq., J.P.  
 Sir Percy R. Grace, Bart., D.L.  
 James Morell, Esq.  
 Rev. John W. Stukke, D.D., S.F.T.C.D.  
 Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart.  
 Right Hon. C. Palles, Lord Chief Baron.  
 Rev. Henry Evans, D.D.  
 Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, Bart., D.L.  
 Rev. H. B. Wilson, D.D.  
 John E. Sheridan, Esq.  
 Right Hon. Sir Patrick Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B., Resident Commissioner.

J. C. Taylor, Secretary in attendance.

Submitted—

I.—(a.) LETTER of the Right Hon. W. L. Jackson, M.P., Chief Secretary for Ireland, to the Commissioners of National Education.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IRISH OFFICE, Queen's-street, S.W.,  
 11 August 1892.  
 DURING the passage through the House of Commons of the National Education (Ireland) Act, 1892, attention was called to the position of certain schools, which, through not complying with the existing regulations of your Board relating to religious instruction, do not participate in the grants made by Parliament for Elementary Education in Ireland.

On behalf of Her Majesty's Government I promised that you should be invited to consider whether, in the rules and regulations of your Board relating to religious instruction, the clause on that subject contained in the Intermediate Education (Ireland) Act, 1878, could be embodied.

I have

I have now the honour to bring the question before you, and to request that you will be so good as to favour His Excellency with your views upon it.

I would ask that in considering it you should have regard to the statements made by myself, and subsequently by the First Lord of the Treasury, on the 16th June, of which I enclose the *Times* report.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. L. Jackson.*

The Commissioners of National Education in Ireland.

(b.) STATEMENTS by Mr. Jackson and Mr. Balfour, on the 16th June 1892, referred to in Mr. Jackson's letter.—Second day of the debate. (*Times* Report of 17th June enclosed with Letter.)

Mr. Jackson thought that few people who had heard his statement on Wednesday would be likely to agree that the interpretation put upon his remarks in the article quoted by the honourable member for South Antrim was a correct interpretation. The honourable member for West Belfast stated yesterday that the conscience clause in the Intermediate Education Act of 1878 was one which the Christian Brothers preferred to the clause in the rules and regulations of the National Education Commissioners, and he was asked whether he would consent to refer to the National Education Commissioners the question as to whether that clause could be substituted and embodied in the rules and regulations in place of the clause which at present exists. He declined to express any opinion or to make any recommendation to the Education Commissioners on the subject; but he was of opinion—an opinion which he held still—that the proposition that he should refer the question to the Commissioners was one he could not reasonably resist. He should not discuss the question whether or in what respect the conscience clause in the Act of 1878 differed from the conscience clause in the rules and regulations of the Education Commissioners, because he desired to express no opinion on the relative merits of those two clauses. The simple point was that certain schools in Ireland which objected to the conscience clause in the existing rules and regulations of the Commissioners were willing to work, and in fact were working, under a clause which had been approved by Parliament and was embodied in the Intermediate Education Act of 1878. As the Committee was aware, no grants could be made to the Christian Brothers' schools, the Church Education schools, or any of the other schools without conforming to the rules and regulations of the Commissioners—("Hear, hear," from Mr. Sexton.)—He must say the interpretation placed upon his statement was entirely unwarranted, and he hoped his honourable friend would, after this expression of his opinion that there was no justification for the construction put upon his words, withdraw his opposition.

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Mr. Balfour said he was in part responsible for the inconvenience to which honourable members from Ulster had been put in not being able to be present at the discussion. But it would be recognised that the course of business during the present week had been difficult to manage—(hear, hear)—so as to meet the convenience of every one concerned, and really the Government had no choice but to place the Bill in the way they did. He had the less reluctance in coming to this arrangement, as he was convinced that in reality no question had been raised yesterday or to-day which could legitimately arouse the susceptibilities of any section of the Protestant population of Ireland. (Cheers.) All that his right honourable friend had done was to promise that the National Education Commissioners should consider the two alternative conscience clauses referred to in the Debate. He did not wish, of course, to express an opinion upon those conscience clauses, but he thought he might say that no one had pretended that the conscience clause embodied by this House in the Act of 1878, which was accepted by all sections of Irish opinion at the time, and had never been criticised, so far as he knew, by any section of Irish opinion since, was a clause less stringent in its character or less capable of affording adequate protection to all children, to whatever denomination they might belong. The suggestion had been made that his right honourable friend went much farther; that he proposed not merely to suggest to the consideration of the Commissioners two alternative and equally stringent conscience clauses, but also desired to have the other rules and regulations of the Board overhauled with the view of modifying the present system by which education was regulated in Ireland. Suggestions had been made that his right honourable friend desired, either directly or indirectly, to open up the vexed and much controverted question of emblems. That was not the conclusion of anything his right honourable friend said, and did not express either the view or inclination of the Government, and that being so, he thought both his honourable friends, who were the only representatives to-day of Ulster opinion on this question, would feel that the Government had not in any way attempted to import into this Bill any question to which legitimate objection could be taken by any section of Protestant opinion in any part of Ireland. (Cheers.)

(c.) STATEMENT of Mr. JACKSON on the 15th June 1892.—First day of the Debate (Times of 16th June). Added by direction of the Board on 16th August last.

Mr. JACKSON said that the question raised was no doubt one of some importance, but there seemed to be a little confusion as to what was the effect in the clause of the words proposed to be omitted. As a matter of fact the omission of the words "or other efficient school" from this Sub-section would be a distinct limitation. (Colonel NOLAN.—And a proper one.) Without these words the Sub-section would not afford the relief it ought to afford to a child who was attending any "other efficient school." A school of the Christian Brothers or a Church Education school might be efficient schools, and might be within two miles of a child's residence, and a child might be attending either of them, and yet his doing so would not be a reasonable excuse if the words "or other efficient school" were omitted from the Bill. The object with which the words were inserted was to make it quite clear if a child were attending any "other efficient school" than a National school, that that should be accepted as a reasonable excuse, and that the child should not be compelled to attend a National school. Therefore the effect of accepting the amendment and omitting the words would be to make the clause stronger than it was by reducing the relaxation which it afforded. The honourable member for East Down (Mr. RENTOUL) certainly took up a position which seemed to him to be more extreme than anything he had heard before. He did not suppose that the honourable member meant to convey the impression his words would produce. Both on the introduction of the Bill, and on the second reading it was distinctly stated by the honourable member for South Tyrone, and by others, that the reason they objected to Christian Brothers' schools was that they had refused to make compliance with the conditions laid down as to religious education. The honourable member for South Tyrone said in express terms that he made no complaint about the education given by these schools. No stand could be taken by the House on the fact that these were Christian Brothers' schools; what had to be considered was whether they complied with the rules and regulations of the Department. The honourable member for South Tyrone referred to the statement that if these schools were in England, they would be in receipt of grants, and he replied that would not be so, because they would have to comply with the conscience clause and with the regulations. He wished to make it quite clear that, as far as he could gather from what had passed in the House, there was no adverse criticism upon the instruction given in the Christian Brothers' schools, and it was admitted that they had excluded or withdrawn themselves from the grants, because they did not feel it within their power to comply with the rules and regulations of the Education Commissioners. Any Minister who was charged with the responsibility of carrying on education in Ireland, would of course be only too glad if some plan could be found by which the whole of the elementary education should be brought into line, and that there should be no question of any denomination or any separation of schools. It must be quite clear that it would be impossible to make an exception with regard to any one class of schools. What was desired was that everything should be done in order to afford the greatest opportunities and the greatest facilities, so far as it could be done consistently with the rules and regulations laid down. He did not interpret the Bill in the sense the honourable member for Cork had done, that there would be any power on the part of a magistrate to compel attendance, unless there was a school which the child could attend. When the schools were made free, it must be obvious that no magistrate could do otherwise than accept it as a reasonable excuse that there was no free school which a child could attend. (Mr. SEXTON.—What is to become of the child?) Concessions had been made to what were believed to be the feelings of a large part of the population of Ireland, providing reasonable elasticity in order to avoid violating the sensibilities of parents, so that it should not be in the power of school attendance committees or magistrates to compel a parent to send a child to a school which he conscientiously objected to. The reasonable excuses which were prescribed to avoid the enforcement of the pains and penalties of the Bill were very considerate, and they were adopted distinctly with the object of trying to avoid unnecessary friction. Unless the Act were worked with the tolerably general concurrence of public opinion in Ireland it could not succeed so well as it was desired that it should; and he did not agree with those who said that there should be power to compel the attendance of a child at a school to which the parent objected. If the Christian Brothers' or a Church Educational school refused to admit a child without payment, he did not admit it would be reasonably within the power of a magistrate to order or compel that child to attend. This case was clearly met by Clause 4. The resident magistrate was really introduced as a protection in cases which otherwise might have to be determined by two magistrates of the same creed and political opinions whose decision might be criticised on that account. A new condition of things would be created by this Bill, and it was expected that the abolishing of school pence would greatly improve the average attendance. The new situation must be recognised. In some towns there were no other schools for boys than those of the Christian Brothers, but the number of such towns was, perhaps, not so large as the honourable Member for West Belfast had stated.

Mr. SEXTON said that in 60 towns the Christian Brothers were the chief educators of Catholic boys, and in 30 towns Catholic boys had no option but to attend schools conducted by Protestant teachers.

Mr. JACKSON

Mr. Jackson said that, according to the information he had, there were perhaps 15 towns to which the honourable Member's statement would apply; and no doubt in these towns the difficulty would be very considerable in carrying out the Act. He thought they were bound to look at the matter in a reasonable spirit, and, if possible, to find a solution for the difficulty. He believed everybody was agreed that, if the Christian Brothers were able to see their way to bring themselves within the rules of the Education Commissioners, there would be no objection to their being brought into the national system and receiving grants (hear, hear), and that these schools ought not, simply because they were Christian Brothers' schools, to be excluded from the benefits enjoyed by other schools of a like character. There were monastery and convent schools in which 70,000 children were taught that were in receipt of grants. We were now brought face to face with a new set of circumstances. It had been made clear that day by the honourable Member for West Belfast that, whatever doubt there might have been before, there was none now that these schools were willing to bring themselves under the full control of the Conscience Clause, so that there would be no question of risk to any child of a different religion; and of course it would be a great advantage to general education if these schools could be made practically into National schools and available to all in the towns in which they were placed. As he understood the honourable Member, in view of the altered condition of things, these schools were quite willing to accept the Conscience Clause so as to make it quite clear that no religious instruction should be given other than that of which the parents of the children approved. The question was put to him whether, under these altered conditions, the time had not come when the Education Commissioners might consider whether a clause, such as that existing in the Intermediate Education Act, could not be embodied in the rules of national education in Ireland so as to enable these schools to participate in the Grant. He felt the Government should try, if they could, to find some plan which would not make an exception of the Christian Brothers, but which would bring all the elementary schools into line. He was not able to resist the appeal that the Education Commissioners should consider the question as to whether, by the adoption of some such clause as had been suggested, these schools might not be drawn into line as regarded elementary education, because it would be a great advantage in the working of the Act if everybody could be induced to do their best to give full effect to an Act which he believed would confer a greater benefit on Ireland and its people than almost any Act that had been passed. (Cheers.)

(d) CONSCIENCE CLAUSE IN THE INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND) ACT, 1878.

The Board shall not make any payment to the Managers of any school unless it be shown to the satisfaction of the Board that no pupil attending such school is permitted to remain in attendance during the time of any religious instruction, which the parents or guardians of such pupil shall not have sanctioned, and that the time for giving such religious instruction is so fixed, that no pupil not remaining in attendance is excluded directly or indirectly from the advantages of the secular education given in the school.

II.—The Chairman reads the following letter from Judge Shaw, objecting to the Motion of which the Lord Chief Baron has given notice, and regretting his unavoidable absence:—

Great Southern Hotel, Lakes of Killarney,  
24 October 1892.

My dear Sir Patrick,  
I am extremely sorry that my engagements here make it wholly impossible that I should be present at the Meeting of the Commissioners to-morrow. At the time the meeting was fixed, I had no idea that a question so fundamental as that raised by the Chief Baron's resolution would arise. It is plain that something far more significant than the change in the terms of a Conscience Clause is involved in the Chief Baron's resolution. It is, in fact, a question whether the whole educational system of Ireland is to be practically and avowedly denominational. Surely this is a question that ought not to be raised on such a reference to us, as is contained in the late Chief Secretary's letter. I am sorry to say I do not know whether it is within our legal competence to decide by resolution, that a purely denominational system, guarded by a Conscience Clause, shall be substituted for the system hitherto prevailing in Ireland. It seems strange if such a power has been committed to an administrative board. But I am quite certain it is not within our moral competence to entertain such a proposition in response to a reference from the late Chief Secretary, as to the adoption of a form of Conscience Clause practically the same as our own.

The question involved in the Chief Baron's resolution is so momentous that I think it ought not to be decided at any one meeting of the Board.

If the resolution be entertained at all, I think the discussion should be adjourned until exact information as to our statutory powers is before all the members of the Board.

In haste,

Yours, &c.  
(signed) James J. Shaw.

III. (a).—The Right Honourable the Lord Chief Baron moves the following motion, of which notice was given on the 13th September, viz. :—

\* NATIONAL EDUCATION BOARD.

" On Tuesday, 25th October next, when the letter dated 11th August last, of the late Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant is under consideration, I shall call the attention of the Board to the 44th recommendation of the Powis Commission, and I shall move that, in the opinion of the Board, its rules ought to be modified by the introduction into same of the rule following, and that application be made by the Board to the present Chief Secretary to sanction the same.

" PROPOSED RULE.

" Where there have been in operation in any school district, or within any city or town for three years, two or more schools (of which one is under Protestant and one under Roman Catholic management) having an average attendance of not less than 25 children, the National Board may, upon application from the patron or manager, adopt any such school and award aid without requiring any regulation as to religion other than the following:—

" (I.) No pupil attending the school shall be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of any religious instruction which the parents or guardians of such pupil shall not have sanctioned.

" (II.) The time for giving religious instruction shall be so fixed that no pupil not remaining in attendance shall be excluded directly or indirectly from the advantages of the secular education given in the school."

Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, Bart., seconds the motion.

(b.) The Rev. Dr. Wilson proposes the following amendment:—

" (1st.) That in the opinion of the Board the clauses in the motion of the Lord Chief Baron, relating to religious instruction, are inadequate as safeguards against proselytism; that in deference to the wishes of those who are desirous that State aid shall be extended to all classes of primary schools in the country, the Conscience Clause of the Intermediate Education (Ireland) Act 1878, might with advantage be embodied in the rules and regulations of the Board as an alternative to the existing one—and to this proposal the Board will offer no objection—provided that all its other rules and regulations relating to religious instruction shall remain unchanged, and that exemption from their operation shall not be conceded to any school in connection with the Board of National Education.

" The following are the rules and regulations at present in use by the Board for the protection of minorities:—

" (a.) A complete separation by a time-table, of the secular from the religious instruction for four hours on five days of the week.

" (b.) The use of school books sanctioned by the Board, and free from the tinge of sectarianism.

" (c.) The prohibition in all National Schools during the hours of secular instruction of the use of denominational emblems and images and the religious rites and ceremonies peculiar to any church.

" (2nd.) The motion virtually overthrows the system of undenominational education in Ireland, substituting for it the denominational; and removes its main provision, which is, that every school deriving support from the State shall be open to every child in the district, and that no child while in attendance shall be taught in, or influenced in, the direction of the principles of a religion of which its parents do not approve.

" (3rd.) That if the system of National Education in Ireland, which has existed for sixty-one years, which is so admirably suited to the special conditions of the country, and which has rendered splendid services to the nation in reducing the illiteracy of the masses, and with ever-increasing power aiding towards the elevation of Ireland—if this system, which is based on the undenominational principle, the only basis on which a system of education in Ireland can be national, is to be replaced by a denominational system, then the change proposed, so vital, so fundamental, and so far reaching in its issues, and which will conflict with the conscientious convictions of the overwhelming majority of the people of Great Britain and Ireland, and stir the national sentiment to its depths should be made—if unhappily it be made at all—after full discussion, by an Act of Parliament."

Ordered, That the further consideration be adjourned till to-morrow.



## ADJOURNED MEETING.

Present:

Right Hon. Lord Morris, Chairman.  
 Right Hon. W. H. F. Cogan, D.L.  
 Edmond G. Deaze, Esq., D.L.  
 Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
 C. T. Redington, Esq., D.L.  
 Wm. H. Newell, Esq., C.B., J.P.  
 J. Malcolm Inglis, Esq., J.P.  
 Sir Percy R. Grace, Bart., D.L.  
 James Morell, Esq.  
 Rev. John W. Stubbs, D.D., S.P.T.C.D.  
 Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart., D.L.  
 Right Hon. C. Pelles, Lord Chief Baron.  
 Rev. Henry Evans, D.D.  
 Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, Bart., D.L.  
 Rev. H. B. Wilson, D.D.  
 John E. Sheridan, Esq.  
 Right Hon. Sir Patrick Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B., Resident Commissioner.  
 J. C. Taylor, Secretary in attendance.

(c.) On a division taken on Rev. Dr. Wilson's amendment, the following voted:—

For.	Against.
Dr. Newell.	Right Hon. Lord Morris.
J. M. Inglis, Esq.	Right Hon. Sir Patrick Keenan.
J. Morell, Esq.	Right Hon. W. H. F. Cogan.
Rev. Dr. Evans.	E. G. Deaze, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Wilson.	C. T. Redington, Esq.
	Sir Percy Grace.
	Sir Henry Bellingham.
	Right Hon. The Lord Chief Baron.
	Sir Rowland Blennerhassett.
	J. E. Sheridan, Esq.
(5)	(10.)

Declined to vote—

Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
 Rev. Dr. Stubbs.

(2.)

(d.) The Reverend Dr. Evans moves an Amendment to the Motion of the Lord Chief Baron, as follows:—

"That the Commissioners of National Education having had under consideration the question referred to them by the Right Honourable W. L. Jackson, late Chief Secretary for Ireland, in his letter of 11th August, 'whether in the rules and regulations of your Board relating to religious instruction, the clause on that subject contained in the Intermediate Education (Ireland) Act, 1878, could be embodied'; the Commissioners are of opinion that said clause could not be embodied in their rules and regulations without such an alteration of the existing rules as would amount to a fundamental change of the system of National Education in Ireland.

"That the Commissioners are of opinion that such steps as it may be necessary to take towards affording State-aid to Primary Schools, which hitherto have stood aloof from the National Board, should be taken by the Government itself, and the measures necessary thereto should be provided by the statutory enactment of Parliament."

On a division taken on Rev. Dr. Evans' amendment the following voted:—

For.	Against.
J. M. Inglis, Esq.	Right Hon. Lord Morris.
J. Morell, Esq.	Right Hon. Sir Patrick Keenan.
Rev. Dr. Stubbs.	Right Hon. W. H. F. Cogan.
Rev. Dr. Evans.	E. G. Deaze, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Wilson.	Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.
	C. T. Redington, Esq.
	Sir Percy Grace.
	Sir Henry Bellingham.
	Right Hon. The Lord Chief Baron.
	Sir Rowland Blennerhassett.
	J. E. Sheridan, Esq.
(5)	(11.)

Declined to Vote—

Dr. Newell.

(1.)

B

(c). Lord Justice FitzGibbon moves the following Amendment:—

"The Commissioners are in effect invited to consider whether National Schools can be enabled to participate in the Parliamentary grants for elementary education upon conditions, as to religious instruction, similar to those contained in the Intermediate Education (Ireland) Act, 1878. To attain this object it will be necessary to alter the existing rules of the Board. In making the change the continuance of adequate provision for the secular instruction of children of all persuasions should be secured, and the apprehension of interference with the peculiar religious tenets of any denomination should be guarded against in schools attended, or which may be attended by pupils of different denominations.

"In the opinion of the Commissioners the object indicated in the Chief Secretary's letter of August 11, 1892, may be attained by the adoption of special rules for schools exclusively attended by children of one denomination, in districts where permanent provision for secular instruction exists in other schools for children of other denominations.

But all schools receiving aid should be subject to inspection, and the school books, time table, and general regulations should in every case be subject to the approval of the Commissioners.

"The Board will prepare rules to give effect to these conditions, and will submit the same for the sanction of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, and for that purpose will now appoint a Committee to prepare draft rules for the consideration of the Board."

On a division taken on Lord Justice FitzGibbon's amendment, the following voted:—

For.	Against.
Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.	Right Hon. Lord Morris.
Dr. Newell.	Right Hon. Sir Patrick Keenan.
J. M. Inglin, Esq.	Right Hon. W. H. F. Cogan.
Rev. Dr. Stabbs.	E. G. Dence, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Evans.	C. T. Redington, Esq.
	Sir Percy Grace.
	J. Morell, Esq.
	Sir Henry Bellingham.
	Right Hon. The Lord Chief Baron.
	Sir Rowland Blennerhassett.
	Rev. Dr. Wilson.
	J. E. Sheridan, Esq.
(5.)	(12.)

IV.—The Lord Chief Baron having previously amended his motion, proposes it in the following form—

"That, in the opinion of the Board, its rules ought to be modified by the introduction into same of the rule following, and that application be made by the Board to the present Chief Secretary to sanction the same.

#### "PROPOSED RULE.

"Where there have been in operation in any school district, or within any city or town for three years, two or more schools (of which one is under Protestant, and one under Roman Catholic management) the National Board may, upon application from the patron or manager, adopt any such school and award aid without requiring any regulation as to religious other than the following, viz:—

"Rules 88, 89, and 90, of the Commissioners, and the two following, viz:—

"(I.) No pupil attending the school shall be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of any religious instruction which the parents or guardians of such pupil shall not have sanctioned.

"(II.) The time for giving religious instruction shall be so fixed that no pupil not remaining in attendance shall be excluded directly or indirectly from the advantages of the secular education given in the school."

[Rules 88, 89, and 90 are as follows:—

88. The register and roll book kept in each school, according to the forms furnished by the Commissioners, must show the religious denomination of each child attending the school.

89. The religious denomination is to be ascertained from the parent (the father, if possible) or the guardian of the pupil, and is to be entered in the register according to his wish.

90. (a.) No pupil who is registered by his or her parents or guardians as a Protestant is to be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of religious instruction in case the teacher giving such instruction is a Roman Catholic; (b.) and no pupil who is registered

registered by his or her parents or guardians as a Roman Catholic is to be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of religious instruction, in case the teacher giving such instruction is not a Roman Catholic. (c.) And further, no pupil is to be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of any religious instruction to which his or her parents or guardians object.

(d.) Provided, however, that in case any parent or guardian shall express a desire that the child should receive any particular religious instruction, and shall record such desire in the book provided for that purpose in the school, this prohibition shall not apply to the time during which such religious instruction only is given.\* (e.) The entry in the book shall be signed with the name or mark of the parent or guardian, and the book shall be submitted to the inspector whenever he visits the school. (f.) The certificate book must not be removed from the school-room. (g.) The signing of it must in all cases be the spontaneous act of the parent (or guardian), the father, if possible.

The following is the Form of Book :

Roll No.,                      School,                      County,  
Name of Teacher who gives Religious Instruction,  
Religious Denomination of do.,

#### CERTIFICATE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

\* [In case a parent or guardian should wish his child to receive religious instruction from a teacher who is of a different religious denomination from the child, or from a teacher who gives any religious instruction different from that which is in accordance with the creed of the child, the following certificate is to be made by such parent or guardian.]

*Note.*—As some doubts have arisen as to the interpretation of the Rule, attention is requested to the following minute of the Board :—

"The object of the Rule is more fully to carry out the general principle of the Board, that no child is to receive any religious instruction contrary to the wishes of his parent. Accordingly the Rule first provides for the case where the teacher is a Protestant and the child a Roman Catholic, or *vice versa*. In this case the dissent of the parent is implied, and no religious instruction can be given to a child by a teacher of the different creed unless the parent expressly requests it. But where the teacher and the child are both Protestants, whether of the same or of a different denomination, the dissent of the parent will not be implied. In this case religious instruction in the *Scriptures* or in his own *Catechism* may be given to the child unless the parent expressly forbids it. In each case, however, the assent or dissent, whether implied or expressed, may be modified by an entry, duly signed by the parent in the certificate book of religious instruction; but no pupil is to be permitted to be present whilst instruction is being given in the Catechism of a different persuasion from his or her own, without the express sanction of his or her parents or guardians, written in the form provided."

I, <sup>(1)</sup> , being the <sup>(2)</sup> of <sup>(3)</sup> , who is registered by me as <sup>(4)</sup> in the school register of the <sup>(5)</sup> National School, hereby certify that it is my desire that the said <sup>(6)</sup> shall receive instruction in <sup>(7)</sup> during the time set apart for religious instruction.

Signature of parent or guardian, <sup>(8)</sup>

Witness, if signed by "Mark,"

Dated                      day of                      , 18 .

<sup>(1)</sup> Insert the name of the parent or guardian who makes the certificate.

<sup>(2)</sup> Insert the relationship of the parent or guardian; as "Father," "Mother," "Aunt," &c.

<sup>(3)</sup> Insert the name of the pupil.

<sup>(4)</sup> Insert the registered religion of the pupil.

<sup>(5)</sup> Insert the name of the National School.

<sup>(6)</sup> Insert the name of the pupil again.

<sup>(7)</sup> Insert in full the nature of the religious instruction; as The Holy Scriptures in the Authorized Version; the Roman Catholic Catechism; the Protestant Catechism, &c., &c. This is to be written by the parent or guardian; but in case the parent or guardian cannot write, it may be written by the teacher.

<sup>(8)</sup> The parent or guardian is here to inscribe his name. If the parent or guardian be unable to write his name, he is to sign by mark; but this mark must be witnessed by some respectable third party.

\* Such expression of desire may at any time be revoked by the parent or guardian, and shall thereupon become inoperative.

## CERTIFICATE OF TEACHER.

I hereby certify that before <sup>(1)</sup> signed the above certificate, I read aloud to <sup>(2)</sup> the following rule of the Commissioners of National Education:—

"No pupil who is registered by his or her parents or guardian as a Protestant is to be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of religious instruction in case the teacher giving such instruction is a Roman Catholic; and no pupil who is registered by his or her parents or guardians as a Roman Catholic is to be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of religious instruction in case the teacher giving such instruction is not a Roman Catholic. And further, no pupil is to be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of any religious instruction to which his or her parents or guardians object.

"Provided, however, that in case any parent or guardian shall express a desire that the child should receive any particular religious instruction, and shall record such desire in the book provided for that purpose in the school, this prohibition shall not apply to the time during which such religious instruction only is given.\* The entry in the book shall be signed with the name or mark of the parent or guardian, and the book shall be submitted to the inspector whenever he visits the school.

\* Such expression of desire may at any time be revoked by the parent or guardian, and shall thereupon become inoperative."

And I further certify that I believe when the said <sup>(3)</sup> signed the above certificate <sup>(4)</sup> had a full apprehension of the meaning and force of the rule, and also of the true intent and object of the certificate.

Signature of teacher,

Dated day of , 18 .

## CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTOR.

I hereby certify that I have examined the certificate of <sup>(5)</sup> and also of the teacher <sup>(6)</sup> above set forth, and that I am satisfied as to the genuineness of each.

Signature of inspector,

Dated day of , 18 .

<sup>(1)</sup> Insert the name of the parent or guardian.

<sup>(2)</sup> Insert the name of the parent or guardian.

<sup>(3)</sup> Insert the name of the parent or guardian.

<sup>(7)</sup> Insert "him" or "her."

<sup>(8)</sup> Insert "he" or "she."

<sup>(9)</sup> Insert the name of the teacher.]

Upon a division the following voted:—

For.

Right Hon. Lord Morris.  
Right Hon. Sir Patrick Keenan.  
Right Hon. W. H. F. Cogan.  
E. G. Deane, Esq.  
C. T. Redington, Esq.  
Sir Percy Grace.  
Rev. Dr. Stubbs.  
Sir Henry Bellingham.  
Right Hon. Lord Chief Baron.  
Sir Rowland Blennerhassett.  
J. E. Sheridan, Esq.

(11.)

Against.

Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
Dr. Newell.  
J. M. Inglis, Esq.  
J. Morell, Esq.  
Rev. Dr. Evans.  
Rev. Dr. Wilson.

(6.)

V. (a).—Ordered, That the Lord Chief Baron's Motion, as amended, be approved.

The Lord Chief Baron proposes that the following letter be addressed to the Chief Secretary, in answer to Mr. Jackson's letter of the 11th August:—

Sir,—In reference to the letter of the 11th August last, from the late Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant to this Board, requesting the Board to consider whether in the rules and regulations of this Board relating to religious instruction, the clause on that subject contained in the Intermediate Education Act, 1878, could be embodied, and to favour His Excellency with its views upon it, I am directed by the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, to state, for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that the matter was carefully considered by the Board at its meetings on the 25th and 26th October instant, and that the Commissioners are of opinion that the clause referred to in the Intermediate Education Act, 1878, can, with advantage, be embodied in the Rules and Regulations of this Board, and that the mode by which it can

can be embodied with greatest advantage to the cause of national education in Ireland, is by the introduction into the rules of the Board of the rules following :—

"Where there have been in operation in any school district, or within any city or town, for three years, two or more schools (of which one is under Protestant and one under Roman Catholic management), the National Board may, upon application from the patron or manager, adopt any such school and award aid without requiring any regulation as to religion other than the following, viz. :—

"Rules 88, 89, and 90 of the Commissioners, and the two following, viz. :—

"I. No pupil attending the school shall be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of any religious instruction which the parents or guardians of such pupil shall not have sanctioned.

"II. The time for giving religious instruction shall be so fixed that no pupil not remaining in attendance shall be excluded directly or indirectly from the advantages of the secular education given in the school."

The Commissioners accordingly direct me to request that you will move his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to accord to such proposed rules his permission, under Rule 4 of the Code of the Board, of which I have the honour to enclose a copy.

I also enclose a copy of the Minutes of the meetings referred to.

I have, &c.

The Right Honourable the Chief Secretary.

(5) The Rev. Dr. Wilson proposes as an Amendment the following letter :—

"Sir,

"THE Commissioners of National Education having been invited by the Right Honourable W. L. Jackson, M.P., late Chief Secretary for Ireland, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, to consider whether, in the rules and regulations of the Board relating to religious instruction, the clause on that subject contained in the Intermediate Education (Ireland) Act, 1878, could be embodied, have this day considered the reference, and are of opinion that to substitute, in schools where the attendance is of one denomination only, the Conscience Clause of the Intermediate Education Act for the rules and regulations relating to religious instruction at present in force would alter the basis on which the National system is founded, viz., united secular and separate religious instruction; would leave all schools in which the pupils are of one denomination wholly unrestricted as to times of religious instruction, as to the use of rites and ceremonies, and the exhibition of religious emblems and symbols, and as to the introduction of books containing denominational with secular instruction, and would thus contravene the principle of the system that the schools supported by the State must be open to all children in the district, with adequate protection from interference with their religious belief, while it would render it difficult to make provision for or protect the rights of minorities. The Board is, therefore, of opinion that a change so fundamental, if made at all, should be made by authority of Parliament, and not by an administrative act, and declines to embody in its rules and regulations relating to religious instruction the clause on the same subject in the Intermediate Education Act.

"I have, &c."

"To the Right Honourable the Chief Secretary.

Upon a division the following voted :—

For the Letter proposed by the  
Lord Chief Baron.

Right Hon. Lord Morris.  
Right Hon. Sir Patrick Keenan.  
Right Hon. W. H. F. Cogan.  
E. G. Dease, Esq.  
Right Hon. Lord Justice Fitz-  
Gibbon.  
C. T. Redington, Esq.  
Dr. Newell.  
Sir Percy Grace.  
Rev. Dr. Stubbs.  
Sir Henry Bellingham.  
Right Hon. Lord Chief Baron.  
Sir Rowland Blennerhassett.  
J. E. Sheridan, Esq.

(13.)

For the Letter proposed by  
Rev. Dr. Wilson.

J. M. Inglis, Esq.  
J. Morell, Esq.  
Rev. H. B. Wilson.

(3.)

Declined to Vote.

Rev. Dr. Evans.

(1.)

Ordered,—That the letter proposed by the Lord Chief Baron be approved.

[This letter was transmitted to the Chief Secretary on the 29th October 1892.]

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Board at its Meeting held on the 1st November 1892.

Present :

Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
William H. Newell, Esq., C.S., J.P.  
J. Malcolm Inglis, Esq., J.P.  
Sir Percy R. Grace, Bart., D.L.  
James Morell, Esq.  
Rev. John W. Stuhbs, D.D.S., F.T.C.D.  
Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart., D.L.  
Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron.  
Rev. Henry Evans, D.D.  
Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, Bart., D.L.  
Rev. Hamilton B. Wilson, D.D.  
John E. Sheridan, Esq.  
Right Hon. Sir Patrick J. Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B., Resident Commissioner  
(Chairman).

J. C. Taylor, Secretary in attendance.

Lord Justice FitzGibbon and Dr. Newell band in the following Memorandum, and propose that it be inserted on the Minutes and sent to the Chief Secretary :—

Memorandum.

When the Lord Chief Baron read the draft of the letter to be addressed to the Chief Secretary on last Wednesday evening, the proceedings of the Board were drawing to a close. The question was whether the Lord Chief Baron's letter, or that proposed by Dr. Wilson, should be sent. We could not agree to Dr. Wilson's letter. We assented to the letter of the Lord Chief Baron, but we did not observe that it contained the following passage, to which we could not assent :—

"The Commissioners are of opinion that the clause referred to in the Intermediate Act, 1878, can with advantage be embodied in the rules and regulations of this Board, and that the mode by which it can be embodied with greatest advantage to the cause of National Education in Ireland is by the introduction into the rules of the Board of the rules following—." We understood the letter as merely conveying the decision of the majority of the Board in official language. This is not what the letter does. It distinctly conveys that all the Commissioners who voted for its being sent approved of its contents. We certainly did not approve of them all.

1 November 1892.

(signed) Gerald FitzGibbon,  
Wm. H. Newell.

Ordered,—That this statement be inserted in the Minutes; and that a copy of it be forwarded to the Chief Secretary.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Board at its Meeting held on the 8th November 1892.

Present :

Edmond G. Deane, Esq., D.L.  
Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
William H. Newell, Esq., C.S., J.P.  
J. Malcolm Inglis, Esq., J.P.  
Sir Percy R. Grace, Bart., D.L.  
James Morell, Esq.  
George F. FitzGerald, Esq., F.T.C.D., J.R.S.  
Rev. John W. Stuhbs, D.D., S.F.T.C.D.  
Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart., D.L.  
Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron.  
Rev. H. B. Wilson, D.D.  
Right Hon. Sir Patrick J. Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B., Resident Commissioner  
(Chairman).

W. R. Molloy, Secretary in attendance.

Submitted letter received 29th October 1892, with copy of Resolution passed at a meeting of the Synod of the United Dioceses of Dublin, Glendalough, and Kildare, held on 27th October stating that the Synod earnestly trusts that his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant will refuse to sanction the proposed alteration in the rules of the National Board.

Read.

EXTRACT from Minutes of Proceedings of the Board at its Meeting on 15th November 1892.

Present:

Edmond Dease, Esq., D.L.  
 Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
 William H. Newell, Esq., C.B., J.P.  
 J. Malcolm Inglis, Esq., J.P.  
 Sir Percy R. Grace, Bart., D.L.  
 James Morell, Esq.  
 George F. FitzGerald, Esq., F.T.C.D., F.R.S.  
 Rev. John W. Stubbs, D.D., S.F.T.C.D.  
 Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart., D.L.  
 Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron.  
 Rev. Henry Evans, D.D.  
 Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, Bart., D.L.  
 Rev. Hamilton B. Wilson, D.D.  
 John E. Shuckan, Esq.  
 Right Hon. Sir Patrick J. Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B., Resident Commissioner  
 (Chairman).

J. C. Taylor, Secretary in attendance.

Read letter dated 10th November 1892, from the Right Hon. John Morley, M.P., Chief Secretary, in reference to the communication from the Board in reply to Mr. Jackson's letter of the 11th August last.

COPY of Letter from Right Honourable J. Morley, M.P., Chief Secretary.

Irish Office, Great Queen-street, S.W.,  
 10 November 1892.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I HAVE laid before the Lord Lieutenant the letter which you have had the goodness to address to me, in reply to the letter of the 11th of August last, from my predecessor in office, to the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland.

His Excellency desires me to thank you for the information as to the views of the Commissioners on the question submitted for their consideration by the late Government. While anxious to pay to their recommendations all the respect to which the authority of so important a body is undoubtedly entitled, his Excellency observes from the Minutes of the proceedings that the new proposals were not carried with so near an approach to unanimity as their character would seem to require, but brought into view deep and considerable diversities of opinion.

Under these circumstances it appears as if the questions raised by the proposed changes in the rules called for a longer period of counsel and deliberation. As the law of compulsory attendance does not come into operation until the beginning of the year 1894, no new inconvenience is likely at once to arise, though the Irish Government is fully alive to the high importance of enabling as many primary schools as possible, and as soon as possible, to share in the public grants for educational purposes.

I have not thought it necessary to touch upon the question whether it is within the competency of his Excellency to sanction the new proposals of the Commissioners by executive act; for the Government, amidst other duties and other tasks, has not yet had an opportunity of giving to this question the full and careful consideration which its gravity demands.

I have, &c.  
 (signed) John Morley.

The Commissioners of National Education in Ireland.

Proposed by the Lord Chief Baron:—

That the consideration of Mr. Morley's letter be proceeded with on the 22nd instant, for which occasion he gives the following notice of motion:—

"That it be referred to a committee to consider and report to the Board, whether any and what modification of the proposed rule mentioned in the Resolution of the Board of the 26th October last will conduce to a nearer approach to unanimity amongst the members of the Board, and will completely guard against any apprehension that pupils requiring secular education in mixed schools might be deprived of any advantages enjoyed under the existing rules."

A Division having been called for, the following voted:—

For the Proposal.

1. Sir Patrick J. Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B.
2. Edmond Dence, Esq., D.L.
3. Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.
4. W. H. Newell, Esq., C.B., J.P.
5. Sir Percy Grace, Bart., D.L.
6. George F. FitzGerald, Esq., F.T.C.D., F.R.S.
7. Rev. John W. Stubbs, D.D., S.F.T.C.D.
8. Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart., D.L.
9. Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron.
10. Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, Bart., D.L.
11. John E. Sheridan, Esq.

Against the Proposal.

1. J. Malcolm Inglis, Esq., J.P.
2. James Morell, Esq.
3. Rev. Henry Evans, D.D.
4. Rev. H. B. Wilson, D.D.

The proposal was accordingly adopted.

EXTRACT from Minutes of the Proceedings of the Board at its Meeting held on the 22nd November 1892.

Present:

Edmond G. Dence, Esq., D.L.  
 Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
 C. T. Redington, Esq., D.L.  
 William H. Newell, Esq., C.B., J.P.  
 J. Malcolm Inglis, Esq., J.P.  
 James Morell, Esq.  
 George F. FitzGerald, Esq., F.T.C.D., F.R.S.  
 Rev. John W. Stubbs, D.D., S.F.T.C.D.  
 Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart., D.L.  
 Right Hon. C. Palles, Lord Chief Baron.  
 Rev. Henry Evans, D.D.  
 Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, Bart., D.L.  
 Judge Shaw.  
 Reverend H. B. Wilson, D.D.  
 John E. Sheridan, Esq.  
 Right Hon. Sir Patrick J. Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B., Resident Commissioner  
 (Chairman).

J. C. Taylor, Secretary in attendance.

Submitted letter from Mr. Morley, Chief Secretary, dated 10th instant, in reference to the communication from this Board in reply to Mr. Jackson's letter of the 11th August last.

The Lord Chief Baron proposes his Resolution, of which he gave notice on the 10th instant, as follows:—

"That it be referred to a committee to consider and report to the Board, whether any and what modification of the proposed rule mentioned in the Resolution of the Board of the 26th October last will conduce to a nearer approach to unanimity amongst the members of the Board, and will completely guard against any apprehension that pupils requiring secular education in mixed schools might be deprived of any advantages enjoyed under the existing rules."

After discussion the Lord Chief Baron, with permission of the Board, amends his Resolution by the addition thereto of the following words:—

"And that the committee have power to inquire and report what alterations (if any) the governing authorities of the Christian Brothers, and of the Church Education Society, respectively, would be prepared to make in their existing regulations as to religious instruction and worship in their respective schools."

The Rev. Dr. Evans moves the following Amendment:—

"That, inasmuch as Mr. Morley's letter of 10th November is not and does not purport to be a final reply to the Commissioners' letter advising the Lord Lieutenant of the Resolution carried by a majority of the Board on 26th October, the further consideration of the questions raised by Mr. Jackson's letter of 11th August, be deferred until a final answer has been received from Mr. Morley."

A Division



A Division having been taken on Dr Evans' amendment, the following voted :—

For the Amendment.

1. J. Malcolm Inglis, Esq., J.P.
2. Jas. Morell, Esq.
3. Reverend Dr. Evans.
4. Reverend Dr. Wilson.

Against the Amendment.

1. Sir Patrick Keenan, K.C.M.G., G.B.
2. Edmond G. Dease, Esq.
3. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.
4. C. T. Redington, Esq.
5. Dr. Newell.
6. George F. FitzGerald, Esq.
7. Reverend Dr. Stubbs.
8. Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart.
9. The Lord Chief Baron.
10. Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, Bart.
11. Judge Shaw.
12. John E. Sheridan, Esq.

The Amendment is accordingly lost.

The Resolution of the Lord Chief Baron, as amended by him, is submitted, and a Division having been taken the following voted :—

For the Resolution.

1. Sir Patrick Keenan, K.C.M.G., G.B.
2. Edmond G. Dease, Esq.
3. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.
4. C. T. Redington, Esq.
5. Dr. Newell.
6. George F. FitzGerald, Esq.
7. Reverend Dr. Stubbs.
8. Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart.
9. The Lord Chief Baron.
10. Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, Bart.
11. Judge Shaw.
12. John E. Sheridan, Esq.

Against the Resolution.

1. J. Malcolm Inglis, Esq.
2. James Morell, Esq.
3. Reverend Dr. Evans.
4. Reverend Dr. Wilson.

The Resolution is accordingly adopted.

The Reverend Dr. Evans moves the following Resolution :

"That it be an instruction to the Committee that the Rules and Regulations of the Commissioners, numbered successively from 64 to 90 inclusive, may not be altered, and that all proposals or recommendations which the Committee may make shall be consistent with the aforesaid Regulations."

A Division having been taken for the Resolution, the following voted :—

For the Resolution.

1. J. Malcolm Inglis, Esq.
2. Reverend Dr. Evans.
3. Reverend Dr. Wilson.

Against the Resolution.

1. Sir Patrick Keenan, K.C.M.G., G.B.
2. Edmond G. Dease, Esq.
3. C. T. Redington, Esq.
4. Dr. Newell.
5. James Morell, Esq.
6. George F. FitzGerald, Esq.
7. Reverend Dr. Stubbs.
8. Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart.
9. The Lord Chief Baron.
10. Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, Bart.
11. Judge Shaw.
12. John E. Sheridan, Esq.

The Resolution is accordingly lost. (Lord Justice FitzGibbon had left before this Resolution was brought forward.)

The Lord Chief Baron proposes that the following members shall constitute the Committee :—

1. Sir Patrick Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B.
2. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.
3. Reverend Dr. Stubbs.
4. Judge Shaw.
5. John E. Sheridan, Esq.
6. The Lord Chief Baron.

*Ordered*,—That the Committee so constituted be approved.

Secretary submits Copies of Resolutions forwarded to this Office, passed by the Corporation of Cork, the Town Commissioners of Monaghan, and the Poor Law Guardians of Lismore, expressing approval of the action of the Board in respect to Mr. Jackson's letter.

*Ordered*,—That these documents and all such documents be handed over to the Committee appointed this day.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Board at its Meeting held on the 3rd January 1893.

Present:

Edmond G. Dease, Esq., D.L.  
 Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
 C. T. Redington, Esq., D.L.  
 J. Malcolm Inglis, Esq., J.P.  
 James Morell, Esq.  
 Reverend John W. Stubbs, D.D., S.F.T.C.D.  
 Right Hon. The Lord Chief Baron.  
 Reverend Henry Evans, D.D.  
 John E. Sheridan, Esq.  
 Right Hon. Sir Patrick Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B., Resident Commissioner (Chairman).  
 W. R. Molloy, Secretary in Attendance.

*Ordered*,—That a special meeting of the Board be held on Monday, 16th January, 1893, at 3.30 o'clock p.m., to consider the Report of the Committee appointed by Board's Resolution of 22nd November, 1892, in reference to Board's Rule of the 26th October 1892.

EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Board held the 10th January 1893.

Present:

Edmond G. Dease, Esq., D.L.  
 Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
 Right Hon. C. T. Redington, D.L.  
 J. Malcolm Inglis, Esq., J.P.  
 Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart., D.L.  
 Right Hon. The Lord Chief Baron.  
 Rev. H. Evans, D.D.  
 Sir Rowland Blesserhasset, Bart., D.L.  
 Rev. Hamilton B. Wilson, D.D.  
 John E. Sheridan, Esq.  
 Right Hon. Sir Patrick Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B., Resident Commissioner (Chairman).  
 J. C. Taylor, Secretary in Attendance.

The following Notice of Motion is given by Judge Shaw :—

" Notice.—That when the new rule, as recommended by the Committee, is proposed at the Board, I shall move as an amendment—That the Secretaries be directed to send the following letter to the Chief Secretary, as the Board's answer to Mr. Jackson's letter of 11th August 1892, and Mr. Morley's letter of 10th November 1892.

(signed) James J. Shaw."

" Sir,

The Commissioners of National Education in Ireland have again considered the letter addressed to them on 11th August 1892, by Mr. Jackson, the late Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant.

" They are of opinion that to embody in their Rules and Regulations the Conscience Clause contained in the Intermediate Education (Ireland) Act, 1878, would be wholly ineffectual

ineffectual for the object indicated in Mr. Jackson's letter, unless that step were accompanied with such sweeping and fundamental changes in the rules and practice as to religious instruction and religious observances in their schools, as it is clear Mr. Jackson never contemplated.

"The schools referred to in Mr. Jackson's letter, as not participating in the Parliamentary grants for elementary education in Ireland, through non-compliance with the existing regulations of the Board as to religious instruction, would be placed in no better position by the Board's adoption of the Conscience Clause of the Intermediate Education Act. There are three main obstacles to their compliance with the Board's present regulations as to religious instruction, none of which could in any degree be removed or lessened by the proposed adoption of a new form of Conscience Clause. These are:—(1) The use in these schools of books for ordinary secular instruction which are permeated with the distinctive religious teaching of one Church, and with partisan views and representations of history; (2) The refusal of the managers of these schools to separate by a time-table the religious from the secular instruction, and to enforce the prohibition during the hours set apart for secular instruction of distinctive religious observances; (3) The exhibition in these schools during the hours of secular instruction of the distinctive religious emblems of one religious denomination.

"The Commissioners feel that they are precluded from considering any changes in their rules and regulations which would remove any of these obstacles, not only by the fundamental principles of the system which they were appointed to administer, but by the very terms of Mr. Jackson's letter. He asks them, in considering this letter, to have regard to the statements made by himself, and subsequently by the First Lord of the Treasury, on 16th June 1892. The Commissioners find amongst the statements of the First Lord of the Treasury, to which they are referred, a specific and emphatic denial that there was any desire or intention on the part of the Government of that day 'to have the other rules and regulations of the Board overhauled, with the view of modifying the present system by which education is regulated in Ireland,' and in particular, a repudiation of the suggestion that there was any desire, 'either directly or indirectly to open up the vexed and much controverted question of emblems.' Under these circumstances, the Commissioners feel that they would not be dealing fairly with the public, or with the late Government, if they purported to be carrying out the suggestion contained in Mr. Jackson's letter, by a fundamental alteration of their system, and particularly of their rule as to religious emblems, which he himself, and the Government of which he was a member, have beforehand deprecated in the plainest terms.

"But, lest there should be any misapprehension, the Commissioners desire to state, that whatever might have been the intention or the policy of the late Government, or whatever may be the intention or the policy of the present Government, they do not consider themselves at liberty, as an Administrative Board, to reverse the fundamental principles of the system which they were appointed to administer. The fundamental principle of the National System of Education in Ireland is, that every National School shall be open to children of all religious denominations, without any danger of their religious faith being directly or indirectly tampered with. This principle was pronounced by the Commissioners in their Report for 1839 to be 'fundamental and unalterable.' To carry out this principle, the Commissioners have found it necessary to provide (1) that all books used in the ordinary secular instruction of their schools shall be subject to their revision and approval; (2) That the time devoted to religious instruction shall be strictly defined beforehand, and kept separate from the time devoted to secular instruction; (3) That during the hours devoted to secular instruction no distinctive religious emblems or symbols of worship shall be exhibited in the school-rooms; and (4) That during the same hours no peculiar religious observances or acts of religious worship shall be permitted in the schools. The Commissioners are of opinion that no school, whose managers refuse to submit to those regulations, can be properly called a National School, because no such school can be properly said to be open to the children of all religious denominations. They are, therefore, obliged to say that the schools referred to by Mr. Jackson in his letter cannot, so long as they are conducted under their present rules, participate in the grants made by Parliament for elementary education in Ireland without completely subverting the National system for the promotion of which those grants were voted.

"If it is desired to abolish the National system of Education in Ireland, and to substitute a denominational system in its stead, the Commissioners feel that it is not their function to carry out such a project. They were appointed to administer the present system, not to devise a new system. In the words of their predecessors, in their Report for 1842: 'It is inaccurate to speak of the National System of Education as the system adopted by the Board. The State has adopted it; it is only administered by the Board.' The Commissioners are of opinion that it is only the State which adopted the system that can legitimately destroy it; not those who were chosen to foster and promote it."

We are, &c.

"The Right Hon. John Morley,

Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant."

1893.

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the Board at its Special Meeting on the 16th January 1893.

## Present :

Right Hon. Lord Morris, Chairman.  
 Right Hon. W. H. F. Cogan, D.L.  
 Edmund G. Deane, Esq., D.L.  
 Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
 Right Hon. C. T. Redington, D.L.  
 Wm. H. Newell, Esq., LL.D., C.B., J.P.  
 J. Malcolm Inglis, Esq., J.P.  
 Sir Percy R. Grace, Bart., D.L.  
 James Morell, Esq.  
 G. F. FitzGerald, Esq., F.R.S., F.T.C.D.  
 Rev. John W. Stubbs, D.D., S.F.T.C.D.  
 Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart., D.L.  
 Right Hon. C. Pilles, Lord Chief Baron.  
 Rev. Henry Evans, D.D.  
 Sir Rowland Hennerbasset, Bart., D.L.  
 Judge Shaw.  
 Rev. Hamilton B. Wilson, D.D.  
 John E. Sheridan, Esq.  
 Right Hon. Sir Patrick J. Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B., Resident Commissioner.  
 W. R. Molloy, Secretary in Attendance.

1.—submitted—Report of the Committee of the Board constituted under the Resolution of 22nd November 1892, viz :—

## Resolution of 22nd November 1892.

"That it be referred to a Committee to consider and report to the Board whether any and what modification of the proposed Rule mentioned in the Resolution of the Board of the 26th October last, will conduce to a nearer approach to unanimity amongst the members of the Board, and will completely guard against any apprehension that pupils requiring regular education in mixed schools might be deprived of any advantages enjoyed under the existing Rules.

"And that the Committee have power to inquire and report what alterations (if any) the Governing Authorities of the Christian Brothers and of the Church Education Society, respectively, would be prepared to make in their existing regulations as to religious instruction and worship in their respective Schools."

The Committee constituted under this Resolution comprised :—

Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
 Rev. J. W. Stubbs, D.D., S.F.T.C.D.  
 Right Hon. C. Pilles, Lord Chief Baron.  
 Judge Shaw.  
 John E. Sheridan, Esq.  
 Right Hon. Sir Patrick J. Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B.

## REPORT.

The Committee met on 30th November and 22nd December 1892, and on 2nd, 3rd, and 4th January 1893.

They communicated with the Superior of the Christian Brothers and with the Hon. Secretaries of the Church Education Society, by letters, dated 2nd December 1892; and replies were received dated 10th and 31st December, and 15th December 1892, which were duly considered.\*

The Committee recommend that the Rule passed by the Board on the 26th October 1892, be modified so as to be as follows :—

"Where there have been in operation in any locality, for three years, two or more National or Applicant Schools, having each an average attendance of not less than thirty-five pupils (of which schools one is under Protestant and one under Roman Catholic

\* For Correspondence, see Appendix to Secretary's letter of 19th January 1893, *infra*.

Catholic Teachers, or one is under either Protestant or Roman Catholic Teachers, and another is a model school under the management of the Commissioners); the Commissioners may, upon application, from the patron or manager, recognise and award aid, under this Rule, to any school, other than a model school, within such locality, in which there shall not have been within the preceding twelve months, a mixed attendance of Protestant and Roman Catholic pupils.

"Every School recognised under this Rule shall be subject to all the Rules of the Commissioners, save those relating to Religion, and shall be subject also to Rules 88, 89, and 90 of the Commissioners, and to the following Clause:—

"No pupil attending such School shall be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of any religious instruction which the parents or guardians of such pupil shall not have sanctioned, and the time for giving such religious instruction shall be so fixed that no pupil not remaining in attendance is excluded directly or indirectly from the advantages of the secular education given in the School.

"In the case of any school applying to be recognised under this Rule, the Commissioners, on being satisfied that efficient and permanent provision exists in the locality for the education of both Protestant and Roman Catholic pupils in National schools, may dispense, as regards the school so applying, with the condition requiring an average attendance of not less than thirty-five pupils; but so long as the school to which such dispensation is granted, continues to be recognised, and to receive aid, under this Rule, it shall, for the purposes of any application by another school in the same locality for recognition under this Rule, be deemed to be a school having an average attendance of not less than thirty-five pupils."

*Gerald FitzGibbon.  
John W. Stubble,  
C. Fuller,  
John E. Sheridan,  
P. J. Keenan.*

I entirely dissent from the recommendation of the majority of the Committee. The proposed rule is open to many objections in detail on which I do not think it necessary to dwell. But the main ground of my dissent is, that the general scope and object of the proposed rule is wholly alien to the spirit of the system which the Board were appointed to administer. The obvious intention of the proposed rule is to foster and promote under the name of National Education, and by means of money which was voted by Parliament for the purposes of National Education, a system of schools which are not National but strictly denominational, and whose primary design is not to educate the community, but to propagate one particular form of religious faith. Our predecessors on the National Board of Education declared it to be a fundamental and unalterable principle of the system that their schools should be open to the children of all religious denominations, and that the object of the system was to promote, as far as possible, united education in secular subjects. It is plain that the object of the proposed rule is to reverse the principles upon which the National system has hitherto been conducted, and, as far as possible, to promote the separation of children of different religious creeds in the schools of the Nation. I am of opinion, that whether this policy be good or bad, it is not a policy which can be adopted without breach of faith by a Board which was appointed to administer a system of National and United education; and that to propose to apply money, voted by Parliament for the promotion of a National system of education, to purposes wholly destructive of that system, is a gross abuse of the powers entrusted to the Board.

*James J. Shaw.*

*W. B. Molloy,  
Secretary in Attendance on Committee.*

NOTE.—Rules 88, 89, and 90 are as follows:—

88. The register and roll book kept in each school, according to the forms furnished by the Commissioners, must show the religious denomination of each child attending the school.

89. The religious denomination is to be ascertained from the parent (the father, if possible) or the guardian of the pupil, and is to be entered in the register according to his wish.

90. (a.) No pupil who is registered by his or her parents or guardians as a Protestant is to be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of religious instruction in case the teacher giving such instruction is a Roman Catholic; (b.) and no pupil who is registered by his or her parents or guardians as a Roman Catholic is to be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of religious instruction in case the teacher giving such instruction is not a Roman Catholic. (c.) And further, no pupil is to be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of any religious instruction to which his or her parents or guardians object.

(d.) Provided, however, that in case any parent or guardian shall express a desire that the child should receive any particular religious instruction, and shall record such desire in the book provided for that purpose in the school, this prohibition shall not apply to the time during which such religious instruction only is given \* (e.) The entry in the book shall be signed with the name or mark of the parent or guardian, and the book shall be submitted to the Inspector whenever he visits the school. (f.) The certificate book must not be removed from the school-room. (g.) The signing of it must in all cases be the spontaneous act of the parent (or guardian), the father, if possible.

The following is the form of Book :—

Roll No.,                      School,                      County,  
Name of Teacher who gives Religious Instruction,  
Religious Denomination of do.,

#### CERTIFICATE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

[In case a parent or guardian should wish his child to receive religious instruction from a teacher who is of a different religious denomination from the child, or from a teacher who gives any religious instruction different from that which is in accordance with the creed of the child, the following certificate is to be made by such parent or guardian.]

NOTE.—As some doubts have arisen as to the interpretation of the Rule, attention is requested to the following Minute of the Board :—

"The object of the rule is more fully to carry out the general principle of the Board that no child is to receive any religious instruction contrary to the wishes of his parent. Accordingly the rule first provides for the case where the teacher is a Protestant and the child a Roman Catholic, or *vice versa*. In this case the dissent of the parent is implied, and no religious instruction can be given to a child by a teacher of the different creed unless the parent expressly requests it. But where the teacher and the child are both Protestants, whether of the same or of a different denomination, the dissent of the parent will not be implied. In this case religious instruction in the Scriptures or in his own Catechism may be given to the child unless the parent expressly forbids it. In each case, however, the assent or dissent, whether implied or expressed, may be modified by an entry, duly signed by the parent in the certificate book of religious instruction; but no pupil is to be permitted to be present whilst instruction is being given in the catechism of a different persuasion from his or her own without the express sanction of his or her parents or guardians, written in the form provided."

I (¹), being the (²) of (³), who is registered by me as (⁴) in the school register of the (⁵) National School, HEREBY CERTIFY that it is my desire that the said (⁶) shall receive instruction in (⁷) during the time set apart for religious instruction.

Signature of Parent or Guardian, (⁸)

Witness, if signed by "Mark,"

Dated    day of    , 18    .

(¹) Insert the name of the parent or guardian who makes the certificate.

(²) Insert the relationship of the parent or guardian; as—"Father," "mother," "aunt," &c.

(³) Insert the name of the pupil.

(⁴) Insert the registered religion of the pupil.

(⁵) Insert the name of the National School.

(⁶) Insert the name of the pupil again.

(⁷) Insert in full the nature of the religious instruction; as—The Holy Scriptures in the Authorised Version, The Roman Catholic Catechism, The Protestant Catechism, &c., &c. This is to be written by the parent or guardian; but in case the parent or guardian cannot write, it may be written by the teacher.

(⁸) The parent or guardian is here to inscribe his name. If the parent or guardian be unable to write his name, he is to sign by mark; but this mark must be witnessed by some respectable third party.

#### CERTIFICATE OF TEACHER.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that before (¹) signed the above certificate, I read aloud to (²) the following rule of the COMMISSIONERS OF NATIONAL EDUCATION :—

"No pupil who is registered by his or her parents or guardian as a Protestant is to be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of religious instruction in case the teacher

\* Such expression of desire may at any time be revoked by the parent or guardian, and shall thereon become inoperative.

teacher giving such instruction is a Roman Catholic; and no pupil who is registered by his or her parents or guardian as a Roman Catholic is to be permitted to be remain in attendance during the time of religious instruction in case the teacher giving such instruction is not a Roman Catholic. And further, no pupil is to be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of any religious instruction to which his or her parents or guardians object.

" Provided, however, that in case any parent or guardian shall express a desire that the child should receive any particular religious instruction, and shall record such desire in the book provided for that purpose in the school, this prohibition shall not apply to the time during which such religious instruction only is given.\* The entry in the book shall be signed with the name or mark of the parent or guardian, and the book shall be submitted to the inspector whenever he visits the school.

"\* Such expression of desire may at any time be revoked by the parent or guardian, and shall thereupon become inoperative."

AND I FURTHER CERTIFY that I believe when the said (2) signed the above certificate (2) had a full apprehension of the meaning and force of the rule, and also of the true intent and object of the certificate.

Signature of Teacher,  
Dated day of , 18 .

#### CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTOR.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have examined the Certificate of (2) and also of the Teacher (2) above set forth, and that I am satisfied as to the genuineness of each.

Signature of Inspector,  
Dated day of , 18 .

(1) Insert the name of the Parent or Guardian.

(2) Insert "him" or "her."

(3) Insert the name of the Parent or Guardian.

(4) Insert "he" or "she."

(5) Insert the name of the Parent or Guardian.

(6) Insert the name of the Teacher.

#### II. The Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron moves :

"That the Report be adopted, and that the Resolution of the Board of the 26th October last be amended, so as to be as follows :—

"That, in the opinion of the Board, its Rules ought to be altered by the introduction into same of the Rule following, and that application be made to the Chief Secretary to obtain the permission of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to such alteration :—

#### PROPOSED RULE.

"Where there have been in operation in any locality, for three years, two or more National or Applicant Schools, having each an average attendance of not less than thirty-five pupils (of which schools one is under Protestant, and one under Roman Catholic Teachers, or one is under either Protestant or Roman Catholic Teachers and another is a Model School under the management of the Commissioners), the Commissioners may, upon application from the Patron or Manager, recognise and award aid, under this Rule, to any School, other than a Model School, within such locality, in which there shall not have been within the preceding twelve months a mixed attendance of Protestant and Roman Catholic pupils.

"Every School recognised under this Rule shall be subject to all the Rules of the Commissioners, save those relating to Religion, and shall be subject also to Rules 88, 89, and 90 of the Commissioners, and to the following Clause :—

"No pupil attending such School shall be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of any religious instruction which the parents or guardians of such pupil shall not have sanctioned, and the time for giving such religious instruction shall be so fixed that no pupil not remaining in attendance is excluded directly or indirectly from the advantages of the secular education given in the School.

"In the case of any School applying to be recognised under this Rule, the Commissioners, on being satisfied that efficient and permanent provision exists in the locality for the education of both Protestant and Roman Catholic pupils in National Schools, may dispense, as regards the Schools so applying, with the condition requiring an average attendance of not less than thirty-five pupils; but so long as the School to which such dispensation is granted continues to be recognised, and to receive aid, under this Rule, it shall, for the purposes of any application, by another school in the same locality for recognition under this Rule, be deemed to be a School having an average attendance of not less than thirty-five pupils."

III. Judge Shaw proposes the following amendment, of which notice was given at the Meeting of the Board on Tuesday, 10th January, 1893, viz. :—

"That when the new rule, so recommended by the Committee, is proposed at the Board, I shall move as an amendment—That the Secretaries be directed to send the following letter to the Chief Secretary, as the Board's answer to Mr. Jackson's letter of August 11th, 1892, and Mr. Morley's letter of November 10th, 1892.

" (signed) *James J. Shaw.*"

"**SIR,**—The Commissioners of National Education in Ireland have again considered the letter addressed to them on August 11th, 1892, by Mr. Jackson, the late Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant.

"They are of opinion that to embody in their rules and regulations the Conscience Clause contained in the Intermediate Education (Ireland) Act, 1878, would be wholly ineffectual for the object indicated in Mr. Jackson's letter, unless that step were accompanied with such sweeping and fundamental changes in the rules and practices as to religious instruction and religious observances in their schools, as it is clear Mr. Jackson never contemplated.

"The schools referred to in Mr. Jackson's letter, as not participating in the Parliamentary grants for elementary education in Ireland, through non-compliance with the existing regulations of the Board as to religious instruction, would be placed in no better position by the Board's adoption of the Conscience Clause of the Intermediate Education Act. There are three main obstacles to their compliance with the Board's present regulations as to religious instruction, none of which would in any degree be lessened or removed by the proposed adoption of a new form of Conscience Clause. These are :—

(1) The use in these schools of books for ordinary secular instruction which are permeated with the distinctive religious teaching of one Church, and with partisan views and representations of history. (2) The refusal of the Managers of these schools to separate by a time-table the religious from the secular instruction, and to enforce the prohibition during the hours set apart for secular instruction of distinctive religious observances. (3) The exhibition in these schools during the hours of secular instruction of the distinctive religious emblems of one religious denomination.

"The Commissioners feel that they are precluded from considering any changes in their rules and regulations which would remove any of these obstacles, not only by the fundamental principles of the system which they were appointed to administer, but by the very terms of Mr. Jackson's letter. He asks them, in considering this letter, to have regard to the statements made by himself, and subsequently by the First Lord of the Treasury, on June 16th, 1892. The Commissioners find amongst the statements of the First Lord of the Treasury, to which they are referred, a specific and emphatic denial that there was any desire or intention on the part of the Government of that day 'to have the other rules and regulations of the Board overhauled, with the view of modifying the present system by which education is regulated in Ireland,' and 'in particular, a repudiation of the suggestion that there was any desire, 'either directly or indirectly, to open up the vexed and much controverted question of emblems.' Under these circumstances, the Commissioners feel that they would not be dealing fairly with the public, or with the late Government, if they purported to be carrying out the suggestion contained in Mr. Jackson's letter, by a fundamental alteration of their system, and particularly of their rule as to religious emblems, which he himself, and the Government of which he was a member, have beforehand deprecated in the plainest terms.

"But, lest there should be any misapprehension, the Commissioners desire to state that, whatever might have been the intention or the policy of the late Government, or whatever may be the intention or the policy of the present Government, they do not consider themselves at liberty, as an Administrative Board, to reverse the fundamental principles of the system which they were appointed to administer. The fundamental principle of the National System of Education in Ireland, is that every National School shall be open to children of all religious denominations, without any danger of their religious faith being directly or indirectly tampered with. This principle was pronounced by the Commissioners, in their Report for 1887, to be 'fundamental and unalterable.' To carry out this principle, the Commissioners have found it necessary to provide (1) that all books used in the ordinary secular instruction of their schools shall be subject to their revision and approval; (2) that the time devoted to religious instruction shall be strictly defined beforehand, and kept separate from the time devoted to secular instruction; (3) that during the hours devoted to secular instruction, no distinctive religious emblems or symbols of worship shall be exhibited in the schoolrooms; and (4) that during the same hours no peculiar religious observances or acts of religious worship shall be permitted in the schools. The Commissioners are of opinion that no school whose managers refuse to submit to those regulations can be properly called a National School, because no such school can be properly said to be open to the children of all religious denominations. They are, therefore, obliged to say that the schools referred to by Mr. Jackson in his letter cannot, so long as they are conducted under their present rules, participate in the Grants made by Parliament for Elementary Education in Ireland without completely subverting the National System for the promotion of which those Grants were voted.

"If it is desired to abolish the National System of Education in Ireland, and to substitute a Denominational System in its stead, the Commissioners feel that it is not their function to carry out such a project. They were appointed to administer the present system, not to devise a new system. In the words of their predecessors in their Report

for



for 1842 : ' It is inaccurate to speak of the National System of Education as the system adopted by the Board. The ' State has adopted it ; it is only administered by the Board.' The Commissioners are of opinion that it is only the State which adopted the system that can legitimately destroy it ; not those who were chosen to foster and promote it.

" We are, Sir,

" Your obedient Servants,

" The Right Hon. John Morley,

" Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant."

On a division taken on Judge Shaw's amendment the following voted :—

For.

Against.

Wm. Homan Newell, Esq., LL.D., C.B.  
J. Malcolm Inglis, Esq., J.P.  
James Morell, Esq.  
Rev. Dr. Evans.  
Judge Shaw.  
Rev. Dr. Wilson.

Right Hon. Lord Morris.  
Right Hon. Sir Patrick Keenan,  
K.C.M.G., C.B.  
Right Hon. W. H. F. Cogan, D.L.  
Edmond G. Dense, Esq., D.L.  
Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
Right Hon. C. T. Redington, Esq., D.L.  
Sir Percy R. Grace, Bart., D.L.  
George F. FitzGerald, Esq., F.R.S., F.T.C.D.  
Rev. Dr. Stuhls, S.F.T.C.D.  
Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart., D.L.  
Right Hon. C. Palles, Lord Chief Baron.  
Sir R. Blennerhassett, Bart., D.L.  
John E. Sheridan, Esq.

(6.)

(13)

IV.—The motion of the Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron was then put from the Chair.

On a division the following voted :—

For.

Against.

Right Hon. Lord Morris.  
Right Hon. Sir Patrick Keenan,  
K.C.M.G., C.B.  
Right Hon. W. H. F. Cogan, D.L.  
Edmond G. Dense, Esq., D.L.  
Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.  
Right Hon. C. T. Redington, D.L.  
Sir Percy R. Grace, Bart., D.L.  
Rev. Doctor Stuhls, S.F.T.C.D.  
Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart., D.L.  
Right Hon. C. Palles, Lord Chief Baron.  
Sir R. Blennerhassett, Bart., D.L.  
John E. Sheridan, Esq.

Wm. Homan Newell, Esq., LL.D., C.B.  
J. Malcolm Inglis, Esq., J.P.  
James Morell, Esq.  
George F. FitzGerald, Esq., F.R.S.,  
F.T.C.D.  
Rev. Dr. Evans.  
Judge Shaw.  
Rev. Dr. Wilson.

(12)

(7.)

V.—Ordered, that the Lord Chief Baron's Motion be approved.

(B. O. 16. 1. /93.)

Office of National Education,

Marlborough-street, Dublin,

19 January 1893.

SIR,  
REFERRING to the communication addressed to you on 20th October 1892, by the Commissioners of National Education, and your reply thereto, bearing date 10th November 1892, I am instructed by the Commissioners to inform you that at the meeting of the Board on 22nd November 1892, a resolution was adopted as follows :—

" That it be referred to a committee to consider and report to the Board whether any and what modification of the proposed rule mentioned in the resolution of the Board of the 26th October last, will conduce to a nearer approach to unanimity amongst the members of the Board, and will completely guard against any apprehension that pupils requiring secular education in mixed schools might be deprived of any advantages enjoyed under the existing rules.

"And that the committee have power to inquire and report what alterations (if any) the governing authorities of the Christian Brothers and of the Church Education Society respectively, would be prepared to make in their existing regulations as to religious instruction and worship in their respective schools."

The committee constituted under this resolution held five meetings, and entered into correspondence with the Superior General of the Christian Brothers, and with the honorary secretaries of the Church Education Society, as set forth in the appendix\* to this letter.

A special meeting of the Board was held on 16th January 1893 to consider the report of the committee and their recommendation.

After mature consideration the Board, by a majority of 12 to 7, adopted the recommendation of the committee.

The details are set forth in the accompanying minutes of the proceedings of that day.

In accordance with the order of the Board I have now the honour to request that you will be good enough to obtain the permission of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant for the insertion in the Code of the Commissioners of the rule as now amended—

#### Proposed Rule.

"Where there have been in operation in any locality for three years, two or more National or Applicant Schools having each an average of not less than 35 pupils (of which schools one is under Protestant, and one under Roman Catholic teachers, or one is under either Protestant or Roman Catholic teachers and another is a model school under the management of the Commissioners) the Commissioners may, upon application from the patron or manager, recognise and award aid, under this rule, to any school other than a model school within such locality, in which there shall not have been within the preceding 12 months a mixed attendance of Protestant and Roman Catholic pupils.

"Every school recognised under this rule shall be subject to all the rules of the Commissioners, save those relating to religion, and shall be subject also to Rules 88, 89, and 90 of the Commissioners, and to the following clause:—

"No pupil attending such school shall be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of any religious instruction which the Parents or Guardians of such pupil shall not have sanctioned, and the time for giving such religious instruction shall be so fixed that no pupil not remaining in attendance is excluded, directly or indirectly, from the advantages of the secular education given in the school.

"In the case of any school applying to be recognised under this rule, the Commissioners on being satisfied that efficient and permanent provision exists in the locality for the education of both Protestant and Roman Catholic pupils in National schools, may dispense, as regards the school so applying, with the condition requiring an average attendance of not less than 35 pupils; but so long as the school to which such dispensation is granted continues to be recognised, and to receive aid, under this rule, it shall, for the purposes of any application by another school in the same locality for recognition under this rule, be deemed to be a school having an average attendance of not less than 35 pupils."

I have, &c.

(signed) *William R. Melley,*  
Secretary.

The Right Honourable  
the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant.

#### APPENDIX.

##### Appendix to Letter of 19th January 1893.

THE following are copies of the correspondence with the Superior of the Christian Brothers and with the Honorary Secretaries of the Church Education Society, referred to in the Report of the Committee of the Board sent to Commissioners on the 6th January 1893:—

##### I.—LETTER of 2nd December 1892, to the SUPERIOR of the CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.

Sir,  
I have the honour to bring under your notice the following resolutions of the Commissioners of National Education, passed at their meetings of 26th October and 22nd November, respectively.

Office of National Education,  
Dublin, 2 December 1892.

Resolution

Resolution of 26th October 1892:—

"Where there have been in operation in any school district, or within any city or town for three years two or more schools (of which one is under Protestant and one under Roman Catholic management), the National Board may, upon application from the patron or manager, adopt any such school and award aid without requiring any regulation as to religion other than the following, viz:—

Rules 88, 89 and 90 of the Commissioners, and the two following, viz:—

(i.) No pupil attending the school shall be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of any religious instruction which the parents or guardians of such pupil shall not have sanctioned.

(ii.) The time for giving religious instruction shall be so fixed that no pupil not remaining in attendance shall be excluded directly or indirectly from the advantages of the secular education given in the school."

Rules 88, 89 and 90 referred to above are as follows:—

88. The Register and Roll Book kept in each School, according to the Forms furnished by the Commissioners, must show the religious denomination of each child attending the School.

89. The religious denomination is to be ascertained from the parent (the father, if possible) or the guardian of the pupil, and is to be entered in the Register according to his wish.

90. (a.) No pupil who is registered by his or her parents or guardians as a Protestant is to be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of religious instruction in case the Teacher giving such instruction is a Roman Catholic; (b.) and no pupil who is registered by his or her parents or guardians as a Roman Catholic is to be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of religious instruction in case the Teacher giving such instruction is not a Roman Catholic. (c.) And further, no pupil is to be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of any religious instruction to which his or her parents or guardians object.

(d.) Provided, however, that in case any parent or guardian shall express a desire that the child should receive any particular religious instruction, and shall record such desire in the book provided for that purpose in the School, this prohibition shall not apply to the time during which such religious instruction only is given.\* (e.) The entry in the book shall be signed with the name or mark of the parent or guardian, and the book shall be submitted to the Inspector whenever he visits the School. (f.) The Certificate Book must not be removed from the Schoolroom. (g.) The signing of it must in all cases be the spontaneous act of the parent (or guardian), the father, if possible.

The following is the Form of Book:—

Roll No.,	School,	County,
Name of Teacher who gives Religious Instruction		
Religious Denomination of ditto,		

#### CERTIFICATE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

\* [In case a Parent or Guardian should wish his Child to receive religious instruction from a Teacher who is of a different religious denomination from the Child, or from a Teacher who gives any religious instruction different from that which is in accordance with the creed of the Child, the following Certificate is to be made by such Parent or Guardian.]

Note.—As some doubts have arisen as to the interpretation of the Rule, attention is requested to the following minute of the Board:—

"The object of the Rule is more fully to carry out the general principle of the Board, that no child is to receive any religious instruction contrary to the wishes of his parent. Accordingly, the Rule first provides for the case where the Teacher is a Protestant and the child a Roman Catholic, or *vice versa*. In this case the *dissent* of the parent is implied,

\* Such expression of *desire* may at any time be revoked by the parent or guardian, and shall thereupon become inoperative.

implied, and no religious instruction can be given to a child by a Teacher of the different creed unless the parent expressly requests it. But where the Teacher and the child are both Protestants, whether of the same or of a different denomination, the dissent of the parent will not be implied. In this case religious instruction in the *Scriptures* or in his own *Catechism* may be given to the child unless the parent expressly forbids it. In each case, however, the assent or dissent, whether implied or expressed, may be modified by an entry, duly signed by the parent in the Certificate Book of Religious Instruction; but no Pupil is to be admitted to be present whilst Instruction is being given in the Catechism of a different persuasion from his or her own, without the express sanction of his or her Parents or Guardians, written in the Form provided."

I <sup>(1)</sup> , being the <sup>(2)</sup> of <sup>(3)</sup> , who is registered by me as  
<sup>(4)</sup> in the School Register of the <sup>(5)</sup> National School, hereby certify  
 that it is my desire that the said <sup>(6)</sup> shall receive instructions in <sup>(7)</sup> during  
 the time set apart for Religious Instruction.

Signature of Parent or Guardian, <sup>(8)</sup> .

Witness, if signed by "Mark," .

Dated day of , 18 .

(<sup>1</sup>) Insert the name of the Parent or Guardian who makes the Certificate.

(<sup>2</sup>) Insert the relationship of the Parent or Guardian; as—"Father," "Mother,"  
 "Aunt," &c.

(<sup>3</sup>) Insert the name of the Pupil.

(<sup>4</sup>) Insert the registered religion of the Pupil.

(<sup>5</sup>) Insert the name of the National School.

(<sup>6</sup>) Insert the name of the Pupil again.

(<sup>7</sup>) Insert in full the nature of the Religious Instruction; as—The Holy Scriptures  
 in the Authorised Version—The Roman Catholic Catechism—The Protestant  
 Catechism, &c., &c. This is to be written by the Parent or Guardian; but in case  
 the Parent or Guardian cannot write, it may be written by the Teacher.

(<sup>8</sup>) The Parent or Guardian is here to inscribe his name. If the Parent or  
 Guardian be unable to write his name, he is to sign by mark; but this mark  
 must be witnessed by some respectable third party.

#### CERTIFICATE OF TEACHER.

I hereby certify that before <sup>(1)</sup> signed the above Certificate, I read aloud to  
<sup>(2)</sup> the following Rule of the Commissioners of National Education:—

"No Pupil who is registered by his or her Parents or Guardians as a Protestant is to  
 be permitted to remain in attendance during the time of religious instruction in case the  
 Teacher giving such instruction is a Roman Catholic; and no Pupil who is registered by  
 his or her Parents or Guardians as a Roman Catholic is to be permitted to remain in  
 attendance during the time of religious instruction in case the Teacher giving such  
 instruction is not a Roman Catholic. And further, no Pupil is to be permitted to remain  
 in attendance during the time of any religious instruction to which his or her Parents or  
 Guardians object.

"Provided, however, that in case any Parent or Guardian shall express a desire that  
 the Child should receive any particular religious instruction, and shall record such desire  
 in the Book provided for that purpose in the School, this prohibition shall not apply to  
 the time during which such religious instruction only is given.\* The entry in the Book  
 shall be signed with the name or mark of the Parent or Guardian, and the Book shall be  
 submitted to the Inspector whenever he visits the School.

*Note.*—\* Such expression of desire may at any time be revoked by the parent or  
 guardian, and shall thereupon become inoperative."

And I further certify that I believe when the said <sup>(3)</sup> signed the above  
 Certificate <sup>(4)</sup> had a full apprehension of the meaning and force of the Rule,  
 and also of the true intent and object of the Certificate.

Signature of Teacher,

Dated day of , 18

CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTOR.

I hereby certify that I have examined the Certificate of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ and also of the Teacher (2) \_\_\_\_\_ above set forth, and that I am satisfied as to the genuineness of each.

Signature of Inspector,  
Dated \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 18\_\_

- (1) Insert the name of the Parent or Guardian. (2) Insert "him" or "her."  
(3) Insert the name of the Parent or Guardian. (4) Insert "he" or "she."  
(5) Insert the name of the Parent or Guardian. (6) Insert the name of the Teacher.

Resolution of 22nd November 1892 :—

"That it be referred to a Committee to consider and report to the Board whether any and what modification of the proposed Rule mentioned in the Resolution of the Board of the 29th October last will conduce to a nearer approach to unanimity amongst the Members of the Board, and will completely guard against any apprehension that pupils requiring secular education in mixed schools might be deprived of any advantages enjoyed under the existing Rules.

"And that the Committee have power to inquire and report what alterations (if any) the Governing Authorities of the Christian Brothers and of the Church Education Society, respectively, would be prepared to make in their existing regulations as to religious instruction and worship in their respective Schools."

I am directed by the Committee constituted to carry out the reference contained in the above Resolution to apprise you that they will be glad to have a written statement dealing with the subject of the Reference, so far as it affects the Order of the Christian Brothers, and that the Committee, after considering any statement with which they may be furnished, propose to invite the attendance of an authorised representative of the Order, to supply any explanation or further information which it may appear desirable to obtain.

Rev. Brother Maxwell,  
Superior, Christian Brothers,  
Marino, Clontarf.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *W. R. Molloy*,  
Secretary.

(A Copy of the existing Rules of the Commissioners is sent herewith.)

II.—LETTER to the Honorary Secretaries of the Church Education Society.

[This communication was of the same date, and, *mutatis mutandis*, identical with the above letter.]

CORRESPONDENCE from Christian Brothers.

III.—LETTER of Acknowledgment.

Sir,

Marino, Dublin, 5 December 1892.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 2nd inst., written by direction of the Honourable Board of Commissioners of National Education in Ireland.

The subject of your letter shall receive my earnest consideration, and I hope to send my reply as soon as some matter of business, which at present urgently demands my attention, shall enable me to do so.

Wm. R. Molloy, Esq.,  
Secretary.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *Richard A. Maxwell*.

## IV.—LETTER of 10th December 1892 from the Superior of the Christian Brothers.

Sir,

Marino, Dublin, 10 December 1892.

I HAVE carefully considered the subject of your letter of the 2nd instant with reference to the resolutions of the Honourable Board of Commissioners of National Education, dated respectively 26th October and 22nd November last, and particularly as to what modifications (if any) I would be prepared to make on the part of the Christian Brothers in Ireland as to Religious Instruction and Worship in their respective schools.

It is unnecessary for me to state what the Commissioners are already aware of, that our schools have for their object, and that the main duty of the Christian Brothers with regard to their schools is the christian education of Catholic youth, but the Brothers have never refused to receive youths of other religious persuasions when pressed to do so by their parents or guardians, and cases have occurred from time to time where boys of this class were admitted into our schools, but invariably on the understanding that they must not attend the religious instructions given in the school; this has been the practice in the Institute to my own knowledge after long experience, and I can appeal with perfect confidence to the fact that I have never known a single complaint to have been made against any one of our schools by either parents or guardians that Non-Catholic boys were in the slightest degree interfered with in their religious convictions. Therefore, I am perfectly willing to accept the conscience clause of the Intermediate Act in all our schools, and the Rules 88, 89 and 90 as explanatory of that clause; and as to daily secular instruction, I will guarantee four hours at least for that object in our schools. I am also prepared to submit our schools to the inspection of the National Board Inspectors.

In a matter of such importance as is the subject of this correspondence, I deem it only just to myself, and right and straightforward to the Commissioners, to refer to two or three points which seem to me intimately connected with the present letter, and to offer my remarks upon them.

Firstly.—With regard to the religious emblems in our schools, and which have sometimes excited adverse comment, with reference to this point, I shall say that we have had religious emblems in all our schools from the very beginning of the Institute, a period of over 90 years, that I could not in consequence think of making any change in this time-honoured custom, that I do believe the removal of these emblems from the Brothers' Schools would have a most injurious effect on the religious instincts and susceptible minds of the children attending these schools, and to quote the words of a respectable Protestant gentleman, speaking on this point lately, and related in the public papers, to do so would be a kind of apostasy.

Secondly.—As to our books. Our educational system is based upon our school series. This series has been specially prepared by the Institute, and embodies in its lessons our tone and spirit. In this series the members of the Institute have been trained and instructed. Moreover, these books have been favourably received by the public, and have been favoured with the approval of one at least of Her Majesty's ministers. I consider for these reasons that our school series is essential to the carrying out of our school system.

Thirdly.—Reference has been made in your letter to "worship."

We have nothing in our school system as far as I know that comes under this head, unless short morning and evening prayers before and after school, and a momentary remembrance of the presence of God, at the striking of the clock, and occurring only three or four times in the course of the day, may be considered such. As to daily religious instruction it is confined to about half an hour each school day; during this exercise no secular instruction is carried on in the establishment by the Brothers.

W. R. Malloy, Esq.,  
Secretary.

I am, &c.  
(signed) Richard A. Maxwell.

## V.—FURTHER LETTER of 31st December 1892 from the Superior of the Christian Brothers.

Sir,

Marino, Dublin, 31 December 1892.

I HAVE, by my letter of the 10th inst., expressed my willingness to accept the Intermediate Education Act Conscience Clause and Rules 88, 89 and 90 of your Board as applicable to those of our Elementary Schools affected by the Resolution of 26th October 1892. I desire, however, to add a few words as to the practical effect which, in the event of our schools being brought into connection with your Board, the application of that Clause will have upon the working of some of our Class Rooms in reference to (1) momentary prayer, and (2) our school books.

With regard to the question of momentary prayer referred to in my letter, I must observe that the schools of the Christian Brothers have been attended hitherto by Catholic pupils

pupils with scarcely an exception; if, however, it should happen at any time that a Non-Catholic boy present himself for admission then this silent prayer shall not be insisted on if the parent or guardian of the boy will not sanction it.

The absence of a Non-Catholic pupil from morning and evening prayer would not be attended with inconvenience to him as such prayers would be said at times outside the hours for secular instruction. The hours of prayer and also the time set apart for religious instruction would in these schools be set forth on a time table.

As to books—No. 91 of the Rules of the Board provides that the use of the books specified on the Board's list, whether published or sanctioned by the Commissioners is not compulsory, but requires that the titles of all other books intended for the ordinary school business shall be notified to your Board before their introduction into the school, and that none shall be used to which the Board object—further that the approval of books is to extend only to the particular edition which has been submitted to the Commissioners.

We propose to avail ourselves of this rule, so far as it permits the use of books not published by the Commissioners. And before bringing our schools into connection with the Board, to submit to them the present editions of such of our books as we use in our Elementary Schools, but we do so in the confident expectation that a full consideration of them will satisfy the Board that no reasonable objection can be entertained to their use in our schools.

If, however, it should happen at any time that a Non-Catholic pupil be in attendance, and that his parent or guardian should not sanction the use of these books for him, in that case we shall provide the boy with an edition of our books which would be approved by the Board, to meet such a case.

I have now to refer to another point which is of no less importance, namely, the question of classification.

The Christian Brothers would accept the principle of classification on the basis of examination in the future; but with respect to those Brothers who are now engaged in teaching, the Board will be expected to acknowledge vested rights by recognising these Brothers as classified teachers on a basis to be hereafter agreed on.

As a consequence of accepting the principle of classification, I propose, in the event of our schools being placed under the Board, to apply to the Commissioners for a Grant for our Training College, under the Rules 146 to 149 G.

The foregoing remarks refer to what I would call fundamental points, and which from their importance claim primary consideration; as to others of detail or of minor importance, there are some which would call for modification as far as the Brothers' Schools alluded to are concerned, in order to enable the Brothers to adapt themselves to a new order of things. I would mention one such case as an instance, viz.: Under Rule 145, which requires one month's notice previous to the resignation or removal of a teacher, it might not be possible for us to give this length of notice, but we would be prepared, under such circumstances, to supply his place immediately by a competent and approved successor. These matters of detail, however, so far as I can judge, would not present much difficulty.

W. R. Molloy, Esq., Secretary.

I am, &c.  
(signed) *Richard A. Maxwell.*

#### CORRESPONDENCE from Church Education Society.

##### VI.—Letter of Acknowledgment.

Dear Sir,

Church Education Society for Ireland,  
17, Kildare-street, Dublin, 8 December 1892.

I BEG to acknowledge the communication you were so good as to send to the Secretaries of the Church Education Society, from the Office of National Education, on December 2nd. The secretaries have summoned a meeting of the committee of the Church Education Society for the 15th inst., when your communication will be laid before it.

To W. R. Molloy, Esq.

Yours, &c.  
(signed) *Henry Irwin, Clerk.*

VII—LETTER of 15th December 1892, from the Hon. Secretaries of Education Society.

To the Commissioners of National Education.

Dear Sirs,

WE are directed by the Committee of the Church Education Society to express their thanks for your communication of the 2nd inst., and to say, in reply—

That, referring to Rules 89, 90, and 91 of the National Board, the committee will not consent to withhold instruction in the Scripture from any child under their care for education.

We remain, &c.  
(signed) *E. F. Rambaut, Clk.*

17, Kildare-street, Dublin,  
15 December 1892.

*Henry Jacobs, Clk.,*  
*Henry Jackson, Clk., Canon,* } Hon. Secretaries.

Office of National Education,  
13 January 1893.

EXTRACT from Minutes of Proceedings of the Board at its Meeting held on  
31st January 1893.

Present :

Right Hon. Lord Justice FitzGibbon.

W. H. Newell, Esq., C.B., J.P.

James Morell, Esq.

Geo. F. FitzGerald, Esq., F.T.C.D., F.R.S.

Rev. John W. Stalder, D.D., S.F.T.C.D.

Sir Henry Bellingham, Bart., D.L.

Rev. H. Evans, D.D.

Sir Rowland Blomfield, Bart., D.L.

Rev. H. B. Wilson, D.D.

John E. Sheridan, Esq.

Right Hon. Sir Patrick Keenan, K.C.M.G., C.B., Resident Commissioner (Chairman).

J. C. Taylor, Secretary in attendance.

Read Letter from Right Hon. John Morley, M.P., Chief Secretary, as follows :—

Irish Office, Great Queen-street, S.W.,  
27 January 1893.

My Lords and Gentlemen,  
I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 19th instant, in which you inform me of further proceedings upon the question submitted in August last to the Commissioners of National Education by my predecessor in the office of Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant.

It appears from the minutes of these proceedings which you have been good enough to communicate to me, that a committee was appointed by a resolution of the Board on November 22nd, to consider whether any modification of the new rule mentioned in the resolution of October 26th, would conduce to a nearer approach to unanimity among the members of the Board, and would completely guard against any apprehension that pupils requiring secular education in mixed schools, might be deprived of any advantages enjoyed under the existing Rules. The modification of the Rule ultimately proposed by the Committee as the result of their deliberations, did not succeed in attaining any nearer approach to that unanimity which the Board recognised as proper and desirable in the case.

Under



Under these circumstances, without entering into the question whether the suggested new rule does completely guard against the apprehensions described in the Board's resolution of November 22nd, His Excellency finds himself unable to sanction the proposed new rule in the Code, though he desires me to repeat that the Irish Government are fully sensible of the importance of enabling as many primary schools as possible to share at the earliest opportunity in the public grants for educational purposes.

The Commissioners of  
National Education in Ireland.

I beg, &c.  
(signed) *John Morley*.

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Read.

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Office of National Education, Dublin,  
4 February 1893.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Commissioners of National Education to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, which was laid before them at their last meeting, conveying the decision of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant in reference to the proposed new rule as submitted in the Commissioners' communication of the 19th ultimo, for His Excellency's approval.

The Right Hon. John Morley, M.P.,  
Chief Secretary, Dublin Castle.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. C. Taylor*,  
Secretary.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND)  
(CONSCIENCE CLAUSE)

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COPY of CONFERENCES between the IRISH GOVERNMENT and the COMMISSIONERS of NATIONAL EDUCATION for Ireland, with Extracts from Minutes of the Proceedings of the Commissioners, in relation to certain proposed Changes in the Rules under which Grants are made by Parliament for Elementary Education in Ireland.

(Mr. John Morley.)

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Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
13 February 1893.

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[Price 3d. d.]